

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a wireless communication system, comprising:

determining a location of a mobile station;

comparing the location to information that is descriptive of a map that is stored in the mobile station; and

deriving at least one system selection parameter from the mobile station's location relative to the map.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of a band of frequencies within which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of a frequency channel on which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of a protocol to be used by the mobile station to obtain access to a desired system.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein the system selection parameter is used to select a public system.

6. A method as in claim 1, wherein the system selection parameter is used to select a non-public system.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein the determination of the location of the mobile station is performed by the mobile station without assistance from a network operator.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein the determination of the location of the mobile station is performed by the mobile station with assistance from a network operator.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein the determination of the location of the mobile station is performed by a network operator, and where the determined location is transmitted to the mobile station from the network operator.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein the map is downloaded from a network operator to a memory of the mobile station.

11. A wireless communication system, comprising:

circuitry for determining a location of a mobile station; and

a data processor for comparing the location to information that is descriptive of a map that is stored in a memory of the mobile station, and for deriving at least one system selection parameter from the mobile station's location relative to the map.

12. A wireless communication system as in claim 11, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of a band of frequencies within which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system.

13. A wireless communication system as in claim 11, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of a frequency channel on which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system.

22. A mobile station as in claim 21, wherein the information is downloaded from a network operator.

23. A mobile station as in claim 21, wherein there are a hierarchy of maps, where a map that is lower in the hierarchy provides more a detailed system selection parameter than a map higher in the hierarchy.

24. A mobile station as in claim 21, wherein the system selection parameter is comprised of at least one of a band of frequencies within which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system, a frequency channel on which the mobile station may obtain access to a desired system and a protocol to be used by the mobile station to obtain access to a desired system.

25. A mobile station as in claim 21, wherein the map is downloaded from a network operator to the memory of the mobile station.

26. A mobile station as in claim 21, and further comprising means for determining a location of the mobile station.